4. The Core Group may co-opt such additional members as deemed necessary.

(S. NIGAM)
JOINT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE

Copy to Members of the Core Group.

World Banks' study on sugar industry

871. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have opposed the World Bank move to undertake a study on the sugar industry in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food is of the view that as most of the policy issues relating to the sugar sector have already been examined by various Committees which are now being processed for taking a final decision, the proposed study on the sugar sector by the World Bank does not appear to be necessary at this stage.

EPZs in Bihar

872. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have established Export Processing Zones in the country for encouraging exports;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how many such Zones have been set up in Bihar;

(c) whether any improvement has taken place in Indian exports after the establishment of these Zones;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if no, EPZs have been set up in Bihar, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seven Export Processing Zones (EPZs) are functioning in the country located at Kandla (Gujarat), Bombay (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), There is no EPZ in Bihar.

(c) and (d) Exports by industrial units in EPZs during 1994-95 was Rs. 2653.11 crores which accounted for 3.22% of the total exports from the country.

(e) Keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructural facilities in the existing EPZs, there is no proposal at present for the Central Government to set up new Zones in the country. However, EPZs can now also be established by the State Governments or in the joint/private sectors.

In addition, with a view to involve the State Governments in export efforts, an Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) Scheme has now been drawn up which envisages of central assistance towards development by the State Government of Industrial infrastructure with an export orientation.

Under this scheme, the Central Government has also approved a proposal of the Bihar Government for setting up of such a Park at Hajipur in District Vaishali during 1994-95.

Non Payment of Arrears of Sugar Cane by Sugar Mills

873. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugarmill owners have withheld the payment of Rs. 900 crore due to sugarcane growers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has caused much resentment among the